



News Release

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City wins national excellence designation for purchasing

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside recently won a prestigious national designation for the way it purchases goods and services.

The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award is given by the National Purchasing Institute annually to public agencies that excel in procurement practices. The award measures innovation, e-procurement, professional development, productivity and leadership of the organization. Riverside is one of 48 California agencies that attained the award this year. Other local winners include Riverside, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties, as well as the cities of San Diego and Irvine.

“We’ve streamlined our procurement process continuously to save money for the taxpayer,” said Art Torres, purchasing services manager. “And it’s more efficient.”

The reason can be traced to the same phenomenon that has revolutionized modern consumerism – online shopping. Electronic purchase requisitions and orders have now been instituted as part of the city’s procurement process. It’s saving users time, money and reams of paper, Torres said.

Seeking online bids for city projects has brought more competition to projects.

“We’ve had a 50 percent rise in our bidding process since we’ve gone Web-based,” Torres said. “More firms are able to view the bid. That creates more competition. More competition means we get the best deal and that means greater savings.”

He added that the award is not just given for purchasing processes, but also for warehousing supplies, distribution and how well the automated system is responsive to customer needs.

The city purchased approximately \$350 million worth of goods and services in 2006.

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